

221
~~217-229~~ East Main Street (Hunt Building)
221 East Main Street
Madison
Jefferson County
Indiana

HABS No. IN-134 B

HABS
IND,
39-MAD,
29-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

²²¹
~~217-229~~ East Main Street--

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Location: 221 East Main Street, Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana
Present Owner: Lee and Eunice Douglas
Present Occupant: Douglas Restaurant
Present Use: Restaurant
Significance: This is the oldest building in a cohesive row of excellent surviving examples of mid-to-late nineteenth century commercial architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: ca. 1842. The Tax Records show the property at its highest appraised value at this time.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The legal description of the property is Part of Lot 63 in the Original Plat (Old Town) in the City of Madison, Indiana. The following deed references may be located in the Recorder's Office at the Jefferson County Courthouse in Madison, Indiana.

1818 Warranty Deed of an unknown date; recorded in Deed Book F, page 499, on June 2, 1818. Daniel Gregg sold Nathaniel and John Hunt the title to a part of Lot 63, Old Town, being 63 feet off the west end of the lot, for \$1500.00.

1830 Sheriff's Deed, dated May 7, 1830; recorded in Deed Book H, page 357, on May 23, 1833. Gambriel Taylor, as Sheriff of Jefferson County, sold the property to Richard Dearborn at auction for \$50.00 to settle the dept incurred by Nathaniel Hunt during his life, and to settle the debts of the estate.

1833 Warranty and Quit-Claim Deed, dated March 30, 1833; recorded in Deed Book H, page 306, on March 30, 1833. Richard and Eliza Dearborn sold the title to the property to John Hunt, et al., being the survivors of Nathaniel Hunt, for \$791.98. The deed was enacted to settle the debt of Olive Hunt as acquired through the estate of Nathaniel Hunt. The above deed transferred the debt to John Hunt, et al.

- 1848 Deed not found; date 1847-1848. John Hunt, et al., warranted or quit-claimed the property to Simeon and Leavenworth Hunt. Ca. 1868-1869, the property transferred from the heirs of Leavenworth Hunt to Simeon Hunt. Leavenworth Hunt died August 12, 1854. The preceding dates are taken from the tax lists of the City of Madison.
- 1891 Warranty Deed, dated July 9, 1891; recorded in Deed Book 62, page 106, on November 1, 1893. Simeon and Martha C. Hunt, for an unrecorded consideration.
- 1931 Warranty Deed, dated November 5, 1931; recorded in Deed Book 62, page 106, on November 5, 1931. Martha C. Hunt sold the title of the property to Joseph R. Matthews for \$1.00 and the consideration of a life interest in the property.
- 1933 Warranty Deed, dated January 21, 1933; recorded in Deed Book 99, page 497, on February 1, 1933. Vinton and Mary Francis Matthews and John and Olive Matthews, heirs-at-law to the estate of Joseph R. Matthews, sold the title of the property to Blanche Matthews for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1970 Warranty Deed, dated April 30, 1970; recorded in Deed Book 150, page 459, on April 3, 1970. Blanche Matthews sold the title to the property to Lee and Eunice Douglas for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1970 Warranty Deed, dated April 30, 1970; recorded in Deed Book 150, page 467, on May 1, 1970. Lee and Eunice Douglas sold the property to Herman Hoffman for \$1.00 and other considerations.
- 1971 Warranty Deed, dated December 1, 1971; recorded in Deed Book 155, page 910, on December 1, 1971. Herman and Rozella Hoffman sold the property to Lee and Eunice Douglas for \$1.00 and other considerations.
4. Original plans and construction: This small, two-storied commercial structure is certainly among the oldest buildings in Madison's Main Street commercial district. The building's original plan follows closely the standard plan of a nineteenth-century commercial structure, in that one long and narrow sales room comprised the first floor, while the second floor was used either as an open storage facility for the retail merchandise, or, as it may be here, as an apartment for the store owner or occupant. A low-profiled gable roof is hidden behind the cornice, while providing better drainage than the long shed roof of later buildings.

5. Alterations and additions: Very few changes have been made to the appearance of this structure. The cornice of the building, a simply detailed form of the late Greek Revival and early Italianate styles, may be an early addition. The large plate-glass window on the storefront is set upon a paneled base (like a wainscot or dado), and appears to date from ca. 1880.

The first floor has been divided and arranged to suit its use today as a short-order restaurant, and the second floor has been arranged for apartment use (although it is not known if the apartment space is original to the plan or not).

- B. Historical Context: Simeon Hunt was born in Madison on July 1, 1815. Simeon's father, John, and his uncle Nathaniel were tobacconists, and together they purchased the lot containing the present 217-223 East Main Street, being about one-half of the entire Lot 63. After the death of Nathaniel in ca. 1830, Simeon's father is believed to have built the present 221 East Main Street in ca. 1842. John Hunt then transferred the property to Simeon and Leavenworth Hunt, who began a hat shop in the present building. In 1851, Simeon purchased the interest of Rolla Doolittle's hat store and consolidated it with his own business under the name of Randall and Hunt. Simeon purchased Randall's interest in the property by 1859, and ran the business alone until retiring in the 1870's. He died on June 2, 1893. His father, John, died May 19, 1857, while his brother, Leavenworth, died on August 12, 1854.

Other businesses at this location, according to the Madison City Directories:

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| 1887-1888 | J. A. Lewis - Auctioner and Commission Merchant, Second Hand Store, Boots and Shoes. |
| 1890-1891 | Frederick J. Foltz - Cigar Manufacturer and Tobacconist |
| 1909 | Thomas C. Francisco - Cigar Manufacturer |
| 1923 | George F. Brown - Singer Sewing Machine Company |
| 1939 | Jackson's Sandwich Shop and Melvin C. Jenkin's Taxi Stand |
| 1942 | Blackard's Sandwich Shop |

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Tax Lists and Assessments of the City of Madison, 1837-1875.
These records are presently stored in the basement of City Hall,
Madison, Indiana.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Madison Daily Courier: July 15, 1851; August 12, 1854; May 19,
1857; June 2, 1893.

Directories of the City of Madison.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: One of the oldest buildings in Madison's Main Street commercial area.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This two-story building measures approximately 15' (two-bay front) x 54'.
2. Foundation: Stone.
3. Walls: Flemish bond brick, painted.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick load-bearing walls with wood framing.
5. Bulkhead: There is a stone bulkhead on the rear with wood steps and wood doors leading into the cellar.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance to the restaurant is on the right side of the south facade. The doorway has wooden surrounds, stone sill, one-light transom window, stone lintel and a wood frame glass paned door. There is an aluminum awning over the door.

The rear north doorway is a narrow double opening with wooden surrounds, stone sill, wood threshold and wooden doors with a panel below two lights. There are wooden-framed screen doors on the exterior.

- b. Windows and shutters: There is a fixed glass panel on the south facade, first floor, just to the left of the entrance door. The window has wooden surrounds, stone lintel, a stone sill at the sidewalk and two wooden panels below the fixed glass panel. There is an aluminum awning over the window.

Wooden windows on the second floor, north facade, have six-over-six-light sash with wooden sills and surrounds. Wooden windows on the second floor, south facade, have two-over-two-light double-hung sash, with stone lintels and sill and wooden surrounds.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The metal cornice across the south facade has two large corner brackets above a string molding. There are two smaller brackets between the large ones, forming recessed panels. Above each panel are dentils.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Cellar: The stone cellar has an earth floor and is used for storage.
- b. First floor: The entrance leads into the dining space with a counter and grill along the west wall. There is a wood screen dividing the dining space from the kitchen. On the east wall of the kitchen is a stairway to the second floor.
- c. Second floor: The second floor, used as an apartment, was inaccessible.

2. Stairways: The wooden stairway is enclosed. There is a wooden handrail on the wall.

3. Flooring: The first floor is covered with linoleum.

4. Walls and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings, painted, and some covered with simulated wood paneling.

- D. Site: The building faces south, sharing a party wall with the Masonic Building on the west and Rain's Hardware on the east.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July 1978

PART I. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with Historic Madison, Inc., and the Indiana Historical Society. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, H.A.B.S., and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1978 at the Historic American Buildings Survey Field Office, Madison, Indiana, by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor, Texas Tech University); John Hopkins, Project Historian (Skidmore College); and Student Assistant Architects Richard Berlinger (Rhode Island School of Design); Jon Lourie (University of Maryland); Eric Swanson (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute); and Peter Whitehead (State University of New York at Buffalo). The written data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.